Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

A8 H53

WAR FOOD ADMINISTRATION
Office of Marketing Services
Marketing Reports Division
821 Market Street, Room 700
San Francisco 3, California
Western Area

FOR ADMINISTRATIVE USE

LIBRARY
CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS
AUG 20 1945
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

HIGHLIGHTS FROM MARKET NEWS REVIEWS
Week ending May 18, 1945

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES:

Apricots: Light shipments of Newcastle apricots started by truck from the Imperial Valley during the past week. They have reached only the Los Angeles market, and last week's wholesale prices were 11 cents per pound. The crop in California this year has been estimated at 184,000 tons compared with 320,000 tons for 1944.

Cantaloups: The first crate of cantaloups left the Imperial Valley for an Eastern market on May 10. The first one to reach the Los Angeles market arrived May 12 and was held at a wholesale price of $20.00. During the past week, four cars of cantaloups reached the U. S. markets -- 3 from Texas, one from Mexico. Carlot movement from the Imperial Valley, California, is not expected to be in volume until about June 1, as the season has been considerably delayed due to weather conditions. Total Imperial Valley acreage for 1945 is estimated at 15,099 acres, compared with 16,658 acres in 1944.

Cherries: California crop for 1945 is estimated at 30,800 tons, compared with 27,000 tons in 1944. To date this season, 43 cars have moved into the wholesale markets, compared with 41 cars for 1941 to the same date. During the past week, 31 cars were shipped. Shipments are expected to start from the Oregon and Washington producing areas about the third week in June.

Wholesale prices on western markets on good stock the past week were 12 to 21 cents in the southwest, and as high as 28½ cents in the northwest. Rain damaged stock was quoted as low as 4 cents per pound.

Asparagus: Carlot shipments declined further to a total of 9 cars for the past week, with 7 of those originating in the central California area. Total shipments this season -- 938 cars. Truck shipments continue heavy to local markets, mostly from the central California fields. Oregon and Washington crops are beginning to mature. Wholesale prices during the past week ranged 8 to 14 cents per pound for good quality stock.

Lettuce: The central California and Salinas-Watsonville crops have passed the peak in production. Carlot movement the past week for central California was 1,332 cars, U.S., 1,355 cars. Wholesale prices in the Pacific Northwest for California dry pack stock of 4's and 5's, $4.50 to $5.00. On the local California markets, dry pack stock ranged from $2.50 to $3.00 per crate of 4's and 5's.

Tomatoes: Total shipments of tomatoes for the U.S. the past week -- 2,031 cars. Texas, 1,987 cars; Florida, 42 cars and Imperial Valley, California, 2. Carlot shipments from Imperial Valley have just commenced and will increase in volume during the next few weeks. Texas has passed its peak, also Florida. Mexico stock is now a minor factor in the tomato market. Wholesale prices on all western markets for 6 x 6 and 6 x 7 pack were mostly at or near ceiling.

Potatoes: Carlot movement from central California, principally Kern County, averaged 253 cars daily during the past week, with a total of 1,507 cars for the week. U.S. total — 4,056 cars. Movement from Kern County is increasing daily and closed this week at 326 cars. F.O.B. shipping point prices at Wasco-Edison-Shafter for U.S. No. 1 long whites closed the week at $2.80 and $2.94 per hundred. Wholesale prices on the western markets continued at ceiling with demand in excess of supplies. New ceilings established for California potatoes under RMPR 2721, effective 12:01 A.M., May 11 to end of May; May 11 to 15 U.S. 1, $2.90; May 16-31, $2.80. Present differentials for grades and sizes continue.

Watermelons: The close of the week reports indicated shipments of watermelons are now moving out of Imperial Valley. Indications the previous week were that Imperial Valley watermelons might not commence prior to the first of June.

ICC order No. 380 effective 12:01 A.M., May 20 continuing through 12:01 P.M., May prohibits the use of refrigerator cars for loading or transportation of watermelons originating in 10 southern states, does not apply to California.

DAIRY AND POULTRY PRODUCTS:

Eggs: Demand on western markets continues well above receipts and available supplies. Small amounts were, in some cases, moving into storage, but held down by civilian demand which has been very much above that of last year for the same period.

WHOLESALE PRICES COMPARED (CONSUMER GRADE): Week ending May 18th.

	Large A		Medium A		Small A	
	1945	1944	1945	1944	1945	1944
Los Angeles	40½¢	35½-37¢	37½¢	31-32¢	35½¢	24-25¢
Portland	40	33 -34	37	29½-30½	35	22½-23½
San Francisco	40½	37 -37½	37½	30-31½	35½	21-23½
Seattle	40	33 -34	37	31-32½	35	24-25

Butter: The set aside requirement for butter was announced by WFA on May 18 to be 55 percent for June, and 50 percent for July. The greater portion of production on the west coast is going to fill government orders. Butter production for the U.S. has increased about 10 percent this week, but continues to be about 3 percent below the corresponding week a year ago.

Additional set aside requirements announced by WFA on May 19, were Cheddar Cheese, 70 percent for June. July was not announced. Spray process nonfat dry milk, 75 percent for June and July.

Poultry: Receipts of poultry on the western markets continued low, and were much under civilian demand. Heavy stocks are being taken by QMC.

LIVESTOCK AND MEATS:

Cattle: Receipts on the four western markets the past week totaled 13,728 head, 400 head heavier than the same week for 1944. On the twelve principal markets receipts were 186,300 head, 1,500 head less than last week and approximately 10,000 head greater than the same week a year ago. Prices

for Good to Choice steers on the western markets showed strength, and top prices ranged $15.00 to $17.25.

Hogs: Support weight hogs continued at ceiling, with demand in excess of supply. Good to Choice feeder pigs ranged $17.00 to $25.00. Receipts on the four western markets the past week were 8,792 head, 55 percent of receipts for the same week in 1944. Receipts on the twelve principal markets were 178,600 head for the past week, 38 percent of the same period a year ago.

Sheep: Three of the western markets reflected a 25 cent drop in price on Good to Choice spring lambs, while San Francisco showed an increase of approximately 50 cents during the week. Good to Choice spring lambs ranged from $13.50 to $15.00. Receipts the past week were 26,134 head, 63 percent of receipts for the same week last year. On the twelve principal markets, receipts the past week were 247,800 head, 20,000 head under the same week of last year.

Wool: Original bag Arizona staple wools, bulk fine, were sold at grease prices of 47.60 and 45.32 cents for lots shrinking 60 and 62 percent, respectively. North Dakota short staple, graded lambs wool brought 41.80 cents for Fine, 46.35 cents for Half-Blood, and 37.80 cents for 3/8ths. Reports indicate the New Zealand wool for 1945 to be 10 percent over that of 1944 and the Australian wool is expected to total about 1 billion pounds, a decrease of 98 million from last year.

GRAIN PRODUCTS:

Barley: Harvesting of the new crop has commenced in the San Joaquin Valley sections of California, and the warmer sections of the balance of the Pacific Coast. Rains in the Sacramento section has caused some damage to the crop, but insufficient to be of any consequence. In general, the wholesale market of the No. 1 Bright Western has held quite steady to a slightly stronger margin, with 46 pound test being quoted generally in the western markets at $2.17½ per bushel.

Alfalfa: Demand on the Pacific Coast for good grade alfalfa hay has increased and trading was more active during the past week. U.S. No. 1 leafy was quoted, at the close of the week, at $31 to $32 per ton. Middle western markets remain relatively inactive during the week.

Rice: Supplies of milled rice continued to run low, and most wholesaler and retailer supplies are expected to be exhausted by the first of July.

New crops in Louisiana, Texas and California are reported to be making good headway for the planted portion, and seeding is about completed.

Corn: Preliminary reports from Argentina indicate that the 1944-45 harvest will be around 121 million bushels, about 35 percent of the previous season's production.

###

PLH/5/21/45